MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 DECEMBER 1981

Golan Heights Issue

Israel on UN Vote, Reagan Remarks -- Reporting the UN Security Council's unanimous vote on a resolution deeming Israel's new Golan Heights Law null and void, Jerusalem radio noted that Israel's UN ambassador announced that his country would not accept the resolution. The radio also reported U.S. President Ronald Reagan's remarks on the issue at his 17 December press conference, citing the opinion of Jerusalem sources that his reaction was "relatively moderate" and that the United States will not take punitive steps against Israel. According to Jerusalem radio's English service, the general strike in Druze villages on the Golan Heights was "almost total." It added that the IDF presence was highly visible but that all roads were open and newsmen appeared to have unlimited access. Citing the Foreign Ministry sopkesman, the Jerusalem POST reported that the Foreign Ministry is not yet sure whether the Golan Heights Law makes the area a part of the State of Israel.

Syrian Minister's Press Conference -- Monte Carlo radio reported that Syrian Information Minister Ahmad Iskander Ahmad held a press conference in Damascus during which he ammounced that Syria still abides by the provisions of the June 1974 agreement on the disengagement of forces on the Golan. However, he added that this does not mean that Syria will not take the "appropriate precautions to confront any eventuality" and that Syria still believes Israel is in violation both of UN Resolution 338 and of the disengagement agreement. He went on to say that, if attacked, Syria would defend itself courageously and unhesitatingly. Asked about the possibility of Syria recognizing Israel, he replied that the question should be whether Israel recognizes the Palestinian people's cause and the Arab countries' right to recognized borders.

According to QNA, the minister observed that U.S. statements on the Israeli measure were "satisfactory," but that the U.S. position "in general" is not. Monitored Syrian sources have not yet been observed to report on the press conference.

Meanwhile, Damascus radio reported that Syria has called for an emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers to discuss the measures to be taken in view of Israel's new Golan Heights Law.

Egyptian Cabinet Statement -- A special Cabinet session concluded with a statement, broadcast by Cairo radio, condemning the Israeli law on the Golan Heights as a blatant contravention of UN Security Council Resolution 242 and the framework for peace signed at Camp David on 17 September 1978 and a contradiction of the concept of peace outlined in the Camp David agreements. It said Egypt totally rejects the Israeli move and demands Israel refrain from taking any measure that contravenes international law, the UN resolutions and its agreements with Egypt.

During a press conference after the Cabinet session, reported by MENA, First Deputy Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din said the Israeli measure will not have any effect on the withdrawal from the Sinai and Egypt is continuing the autonomy talks and the normalization of relations.

Saudi Press Comment -- Terming the Israeli measure on the Golan "piracy," 'UKAZ appealed for Arab unity to confront the Israeli challenge, SPA reported. It added that AL-YAWM and AL-MADINAH also condemned the Israeli move.

Israel

The Government Press Office issued the text of a speech by Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon to the 14 December conference of the Institute for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University, read on his behalf by Maj Gen Aharon Yariv, in which he listed Arab confrontation and Soviet expansion as the main challenges to Israeli security during the 1980's. He observed that Israel's sphere of security interest must be expanded to include Pakistan, Turkey, Iran, the Persian Gulf region and Africa, especially north and central Africa. He stressed that Israel must develop and produce weapons systems that will allow it to maintain a "permanent qualitative advantage" over the Arab confrontation states, ensuring its independent ability to deal with Arab military threats while striving to establish strategic cooperation ties with the United States.

PLO

'Arafat in Romania -- The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported that PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held two rounds of talks in Bucharest with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu. 'Arafat subsequently left Romania, according to Bucharest radio. MENA reported that an envoy of President Ceausescu would arrive in Cairo on 18 December, bearing a message for President Husni Mubarak.

Salah Khalaf Speech -- The Voice of Palestine broadcast a speech by Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf to a 16 December Beirut rally in which he reaffirmed that the PLO will never approve of any Middle East peace plan that involves negotiations with or recognition of Israel. Claiming that those who aborted the Fes summit conference were those who adjourned or postponed it, he accused them of hoping to invite Egyptian President Mubarak to the next summit session at Fes. Criticizing Algeria and Saudi Arabia for hosting the "Zionist" French president, Francois Mitterrand, Khalaf said they should cancel their new economic agreements with France.

Al-Wazir Interview -- In an interview with the Beirut weekly MONDAY MORNING, PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir revealed that during his recent visit to Hungary, he reached an agreement providing for Hungarian military support for the PLO, "in terms of both arms supplies and military training." Al-Wazir also indicated that the GDR has agreed to provide military support for the PLO and mentioned that during his visit to the GDR, the PLO delegation held discussions with East German personnel about the latest developments in antiaircraft missiles.

Libya

DPA reported that Libya's representative in Bonn stressed that U.S. citizens and other foreigners in Libya have nothing to fear. Speaking to newsmen, he noted that 67 U.S. citizens have so far left Libya in accordance with the U.S. administration's request and said Kuwait has offered technological assistance for Libya's oil industry.

Iran

Embassy Bombing -- PARS reported that the Iraqi opposition group Ad-Da'wah has claimed responsibility for the explosion at Iraq's Beirut embassy.

Oil Pumping Resumed -- Citing a Syrian official source, the Amman paper AD-DUSTUR said Iraq has resumed pumping oil through Syria to the Tripoli refinery in northern Lebanon.

Iran

Tehran radio reported that a Foreign Ministry spokesman denied a Pentagon claim that Iran intends to purchase spare parts for its F-14 aircraft.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KARMAL GRANTS INTERVIEW TO BULGARIAN DAILY

AU151528 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 14 Dec 81 p 1, 7

[Interview given to Petur Bochukov, RABOTNICHESKO DELO correspondent, by Afghan President Babrak Karmal in Kabul: "The Revolution Is a Victorious March" -- date not given]

[Text] On the eve of his forthcoming visit to Bulgaria, Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee and head of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] Revolutionary Council, received Petur Bochukov, RABOTNICHESKO DELO special correspondent, in Kabul and gave him the following interview:

Question: Comrade Babrak, our people are following with deep attention and solidarity the revolutionary process in the DRA. Would you please tell us what are the present characteristic points in the just struggle of the Afghan people against foreign interference and reaction, as well as for building an independent and democratic Afghanistan?

Answer: The present moment in the development of our society is reflected in the deep analysis carried out in the theses of the PDPA Central Committee on the occasion of the second anniversary of the April Revolution. The theses clearly emphasize the people's-democratic nature of our revolution. Now, when the process of consolidating the patriotic forces continues to its next stage, special attention is devoted to national traditions and customs. The process of economic stabilization and of bringing agrarian reform to an end are also continuing. We have to notice, however, that the basic problem we are facing now is to explain the aggression of imperialism, hegemonism and local reaction. After the new stage of the Afghan revolution, they united their efforts in order to halt our development. Our experience has recently shown that the terrorist activities of the mercenaries, accompanied by an intensified propaganda campaign against our country, are aimed against the measures of our party and our revolutionary power in the economic sphere. Enterprises and cultural establishments are subject to diversions and attacks by gangsters sent from abroad. They are burning down houses and crops, destroying schools and hospitals and also disabling and murdering innocent people. These actions of the mercenaries reflect the goals of the United States -- to destroy the revolution in Afghanistan.

In this complicated and difficult situation, the Afghan people are uniting their strength and under the leadership of our militant party they are managing to cope with the pending threat. Today we can say that the main counterrevolutionary groups in the country are liquidated, and the enemy has been forced to operate sporadically and in small gangs. This offers us a chance to achieve democratic reforms on a larger scale.

A major revolutionary task of our party and state is to mobilize the people for the defense of our revolutionary achievements. As you know, we inherited a very heavy burden from the criminal regime of Hafizollah Amin, who tried to shake the people's confidence in our revolution. Under the cover of leftwing slogans, he succeeded in achieving some of his dirty intentions. We can point with satisfaction to our having achieved great successes in the past 2 years -- public and mass organizations have been set up and the process of consolidating the people's masses and building the prestige of the PDPA has been stabilized.

Question: Every unprejudiced person who has visited your country can easily be convinced that regardless of the great difficulties caused by the designs of the enemies of the DRA, the revolutionary process continues to develop while the socioeconomic situation in the country is stabilizing itself. How do you appraise the results of setting up the National Fatherland Front [NFF] in the DRA?

Answer: A total of 945 persons -- delegates from all over the country, representatives of the party, public and creative organizations as well as of various tribes and nationalities -- participated in the constituent congress of the NFF on 15 June 1981.

The goal was to guarantee the widest possible participation of the people in the management of our country. The establishment of the NFF expressed the striving for unity, on the basis of which the union between workers and peasants, and the union of all patriots, is built. This has a major historic importance for our people. The basic trend of its activity is to involve everybody in building up the new life and to mobilize the people's forces for strengthening the defensive power of the country, as well as for full and final liquidation of the counterrevolution. Along with this, the NFF has assigned itself the task of struggling for protecting peace in the name of democracy and social progress.

For the comparatively short period of time since the constituent congress, great steps have been taken to build up the basic teams and organs of the front. The front's forces have valuably contributed and continue to contribute to liquidating the counterrevolutionary dregs of society. During this short period of time, the NFF in Afghanistan has created fraternal ties of solidarity with kindred organizations in the friendly countries. Ties are particularly close and efficient with the Fatherland Front in Bulgaria. An expression of the fraternal mutual relations between the two Fatherland Front organizations of our countries is the cooperation agreement signed for 1981-1982.

Question: The peace proposals made by the Government of the DRA on politically regulating the problems that have emerged thanks to imperialism, hegemony and local reaction, have received a positive appraisal by many realistically thinking statesmen. What are your further plans in this respect?

Answer: I agree with you. The concrete and constructive proposals of the Afghan Government were actually appraised in a positive way. We are building our foreign political line on the principles of peaceful coexistence. We are in favor of understanding and cooperating with all countries and, more particularly, with our neighbors. As you know, on this basis our government prepared its peace proposals of 14 May 1980 and of 24 August 1981, to liquidate the crisis in this area. We propose that all disputed issues be resolved through negotiations so that appropriate agreements can be reached on this basis. We are convinced that the "undeclared war" continuing against the DRA makes the situation in this area unstable, and that this is only in the interest of imperialism. That is why we expect that our neighbors will appreciate our peace appeals and will answer them positively. Unfortunately, we have not yet received such an answer. What is more, the aggression against the DRA is continuing. Regardless of this, however, we will continue to make efforts in this respect and believe that our peace cause will triumph.

Question: What would you say about the development of relations between our parties, peoples and countries, and what do you expect of your forthcoming visit to Bulgaria?

Answer: The relations between the DRA and the People's Republic of Bulgaria and between our two parties and peoples are excellent. We are satisfied with our comprehensive cooperation in the socioeconomic, cultural and scientific sphere. Along with this, I can say that our friendship has a splendid future. This friendship was raised after the victory of our revolution's new stage of development. In 1981 we broadly marked the noteworthy jubilee -- the 1,300th anniversary of the Bulgarian state, the 90th anniversary of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] and the 25th anniversary of the April plenum, which is closely linked with the name and innovative activity of Comrade Todor Zhivkov.

I am convinced that the forthcoming visit of our party-government delegation to Bulgaria, at the invitation of the BCP Central Committee and the Bulgarian Government, will give further impetus to the comprehensive development of the relations of brotherhood between the two countries.

In conclusion, I kindly ask you to convey the genuine gratitude of our party and people to the BCP and Bulgarian people for their solidarity with and support for our just struggle in the name of the future.

GANDHI: PAKISTAN TO USE U.S. ARMS AGAINST INDIA

BK171607 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Dec 81

[Text] The prime minister said she has no doubt that American arms to Pakistan are meant to be used against India. In an interview last week, quoted in the INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE today, Mrs Gandhi recalled India's past experience when Washington gave arms and equipment to Pakistan. She said the United States just supports dictatorship rather than a democracy.

Replying to a question, Mrs Gandhi rejected suggestions that India is following the Soviet Union. It is not India that is voting with the Soviet Union in the international forums but the other way round.

RAJYA SABHA DEBATES FOREIGN POLICY; RAO REPLIES

BK171704 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Dec 81

[Text] The external affairs minister told the Rajya Sabha today that India will accept Pakistan's offer of a no-war pact if its basis is the same as that of India's offer made 30 years ago. Replying to a 6-hour debate on the motion on the international situation and India's foreign policy, he said our response to the offer has not been negative. Rao said we are still analysing it and our approach in this matter is positive and cautious.

About Nepal's proposal of making it a zone of peace, Rao said he is trying to understand it and its implications. We are in consultation with Nepal on the matter and a decision will be taken at an appropriate time.

On regional cooperation, the external affairs minister said two meetings at foreign secretaries level at Colombo and Katmandu have been useful and remarkable progress was made in identifying areas of regional cooperation. After one or two more such meetings a state will be set for a meeting of foreign ministers.

Rao informed the members that a (?South) summit of developing countries is proposed to be held in New Delhi in the last week of February.

About the Nonaligned Movement, the external affairs minister said its success can be judged from the fact that more and more countries are joining it.

Rao strongly refuted the opposition allegation that India is spending more on defense than what it should. Giving figures, he said India is spending only a little over 3 percent of its GNP compared to more than 6 percent by some neighboring countries.

Later, the house adopted the motion with an amendment move by Dr Nazma Haqtullah, Congress-I, approving the policy of the government.

During the discussion, cutting across party lines, several members welcomed government's efforts to normalize relations with China. A Communist Party of India-Marxist [CPI-M] member said these efforts should be pursued further. A Congress-S member felt that the new administration in the United States is more anti-Indian. A ruling party member called for creation of a new international order. A Bharatiya Janata Party member wanted India to improve her relations with the United States and Pakistan. A Janata member wanted the government to pursue Pakistan's offer of a no-war pact. A Congress-I member wanted to know what countermeasures the government is taking in view of Pakistan acquiring F-16 aircraft from the United States.

PRC TALKS END AFTER 'FRANK' EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

BK141246 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Both the Indian and the Chinese Governments would remain in touch with each other with a view to make progress toward the settlement of the border question. This agreement emerged after a 5-day official-level talks between India and China, which ended in Beijing today.

All-India radio's Southeast Asia correspondent Robin Dey covering the talks quotes an Indian official as saying there had been a frank and friendly exchange of views on the boundary question.

AFP NOTES INDIAN VIEW OF TALKS WITH PRC

BK171108 Hong Kong AFP in English 0801 GMT 17 Dec 81

[Text] New Delhi, 17 Dec (AFP) -- India today described the December 10-14 Sino-Indian border talks as a "positive step" towards normalisation of relations with Beijing, but admitted that wide differences persist between the two Asian giants, neighbours.

"It was not our anticipation that it would be possible to make substantive progress in the first round...the two sides have had a fairly detailed exchange of views, and although fairly wide differences persist, we hope that they could result in a better understanding of each other's position," Foreign Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao told the Indian Parliament.

This was the first official reaction to the Beijing talks, the first to be held since the two nations fought a bloody border war in 1962.

The statement, which was read by Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Bishma Narayan Singh in the absence of Mr Rao in the house, reiterated that India wanted to "fully normalise relations with China."

"In the light of the report of our delegation, we are now considering how we should take this matter forward...we may, however, regard the fact of the meeting itself as a positive step. This, I understand, is the Chinese view also," the statement said.

The statement said that three sessions of plenary discussions were held during the Beijing talks and sub-groups on matters concerning boundary, trade and economic cooperation, cultural exchanges and science and technology exchanges held several sittings.

"The atmosphere was friendly and cordial throughout all the meetings and discussions," the statement said.

"As I have repeatedly informed the house, it is the desire of the government to normalise relations fully with China. This is only possible when we can bring about a complete resolution of our problems as well as a stable relationship in all fields," the minister said.

The Beijing talks were the outcome of the June visit of Chinese Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Huang Hua to India.

ISI CITES INDIAN PRESS ON PRC BORDER TALKS

BK171623 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1608 GMT 17 Dec 81

[Text] The Hindustan TIMES in an editorial "The First Probe" writes that the recently concluded official-level talks between India and China have been described as a "probing mission" to test the ground. In this the talks have been reasonably successful. There have been some agreements and discussions on peripheral matters like cultural and scientific exchanges and economic cooperation.

The crux of the issue, however, is the undemarcated boundary of the two nations and the occupation of part of Indian territory by the Chinese. The Chinese do not like to face the matter boldly. The issue figured in the talks, but the scope of the discussions is not known. It can be surmised that it was a highly tentative effort. The Chinese like to relate all unpleasant events to the activities of the Gang of Four but this gang did not exist when our border disputes turned violent. China may be repeating this cliche for internal consumption, but it does not help the progress of genuine talks to bandy this kind of meaningless expression to explain a situation. World affairs are getting murkier every day. In such a context talks should assume an air of urgency. There is no reason why a fairly quick settlement of the boundary dispute should not be reached. It is purely a matter of give and take. India will certainly go half way to reach an understanding based on mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity.

THE STATESMAN, in an editorial "Waiting for the Next Round" writes that no breakthrough was expected at the Beijing talks. Indeed, both governments avoided playing up the importance of the talks. Yet statements made at the end of the talks were remarkable for the lack of optimistic note. There was no joint declaration. Admittedly several rounds would be needed to search for a solution, but nothing has been firmly said about further meetings. The fact is that New Delhi does not seem to consider a political settlement with China to be possible or desperately needed in the immediate context. The idea of a U.S.A.-China-Pakistan axis may not seem too fanciful to South block and apparently it does not wish to do anything that might isolate the Soviet Union in the region of interacting interests. The Chinese may have sensed this months ago and found confirmation in the repeated postponement of the official level talks. However, the absence of any effusive statement at the end of the talks does not necessarily imply failure. Indeed, clearer appreciation of mutual interests and calculations may even be beneficial. But whether the talks marked a useful beginning can be clear only after the date of the next meeting is known. So far it is not known whether there is going to be another meeting at all.

TRADE PROTOCOL FOR 1982 SIGNED WITH ROMANIA

BK141058 Delhi Domestic Servi in English 0830 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] India and Romania have signed a trade protocol for 1982. It envisages a trade turnover of 2.62 billion rupees both ways.

The protocol represents an increase of about 10 percent over the provisions of the trade protocol for last year. A supplementary protocol annexed to it provides for additional export of goods worth about 650 million rupees to Romania by March next.

India's overall trade with Romania will now go up by 36 percent as compared to last year.

DEVELOPMENT AID OFFERED TO AFGHANISTAN

BK150955 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] India has offered to assist Afghanistan in the development of water resources and allied fields. This offer was made during the talks held by Afghanistan's Minister of Water and Power Dr Raz Mohammad Paktin with Union Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Civil Supplies Rao Birendra Singh and Minister of State for Irrigation Z.R. Ansari in New Delhi yesterday.

SPOKESMAN DENIES TROOP CONCENTRATION CHARGE

BK171547 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Dec 81

[Excerpts] An official spokesman has stated categorically that normal conditions prevail on the borders with India and there has been no concentration of troops on the Pakistan side. He was asked to comment on the statement made by Indian Minister of State for Defense Shivraj Patil in the Lok Sabha yesterday which sought to create the impression that Pakistan is concentrating troops in the border areas.

Referring to the Indian state defense minister's statement that some of the Indian air bases are within range of attacks by F-16 aircraft, the spokesman said that only a meager number of the aircraft being purchased will be available by the end of next year. The official spokesman said that, according to reports published in the meantime and other reports received from dependable sources, India already has Jaguar, MiG-23, MiG-21, B-1's, MiG-25 and other high-performance aircraft capable of penetrating any part of Pakistan and the Indian state minister had said nothing about this fact.

'SOURCES' ON INDIAN VIEWS ON NONAGGRESSION PACT

BK171617 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Dec 81

[Text] Official sources in Islamabad have expressed surprise at statements made by highly-placed Indian officials that the Pakistani proposal of a nonaggression pact has not been understood by them. These sources said that there is nothing ambiguous or mysterious about Pakistan's proposal for mutual consultations to evolve a basis for a nonaggression pact between the two countries.

About the Indian view that if Pakistan acquires arms -- especially the latest weapons -- it will destabilize the friendly relations between the two countries, these sources said that it is a strange form of Indian logic that says a durable friendship can be established only if Pakistan relinquishes its right to acquire arms for its own defense as an independent and sovereign country. These sources said that not only is India acquiring arms on a large scale from various sources, but it has also rejected talks on a balance of forces between the two countries, as proposed by Pakistan. The Indian conditions for friendship cannot be expected to be accepted by any sovereign country.

The radio Pakistan diplomatic correspondent says that in June this year, during the Indian external affairs minister's visit to Pakistan, the two countries had recognized each other's right to acquire arms necessary for their defense.

BRIEFS

ISLAMIC BANK LOAN -- The Islamic Development Bank has approved a $10-million loan for Pakistan to be spent for the construction of a dam for drinking water supply in Karachi. [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Dec 81 BK]

SAUDI DONATION FOR BALUCHISTAN -- Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has announced a personal gift of 10 million rupees for a welfare scheme for the people of Baluchistan. [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Dec 81 BK]

SPOKESMAN DENIES REPORT ON F-14 SPARES PURCHASE

LD171796 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Dec 81

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman contacted the Central News Unit and strongly denied a Pentagon claim, reported by a news agency associated with global oppressors, to the effect that Iran intends to purchase F-14 spare parts. The spokesman added: This claim is another link in the chain of plots by imperialism against the Islamic revolution. The United States is trying, on the one hand, to deny the astonishing might of our armed forces, which are capable of ending the war in victory without relying on foreigners and, on the other, it is attempting to prepare the ground for a new shameful and bloody invasion against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He continued: In our war against Iraq, we are in fact fighting the United States and Israel, with the U.S. AWACS planes having actually entered into a war against us. Consequently, how is it possible to seek to purchase weapons from a country against whom we are at war? These ludicrous claims are more evidence demonstrating the bankruptcy of a disgraceful, devious and hypocritical diplomacy by international imperialism and Zionism.

IRAQIS CLAIM REPONSIBILITY FOR BEIRUT EXPLOSION

LD171406 Tehran PARS in English 0920 GMT 17 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 16 Dec (PARS) -- The opposition Iraqi Movement of "Ad-Da'wah" revendicated [as received] the explosion of Iraqi Embassy in Beirut in a contact with PARS today. A spokesman of the movement, who asked for the anonymity, said that a member of the movement in Beirut, who was martyred, drove a TNT loaded, Swedish made Volvo toward the embassy building, causing the explosion. He said that the action was decided on the occasion of the fifth year of the expulsion of Muslim people from Iraqi cities of Karbala' and [words indistinct] the Saddam's mercenaries.

HOSEYN MARTYRDOM ANNIVERSARY MARKED IN TEHRAN

LD171600 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Dec 81

[Excerpts] On the [anniversary of the] 40th day of the martyrdom of the lord of the martyrs and the knights of the world, His Holiness Hoseyn ibn 'Ali, may God's peace be upon him, the Islamic Iranian homeland was an echo [as heard] of the bloody uprising in Karbala'. The lovers of the household of sanctity and purity with their solid and united participation in the cermonies of the Arba'in [the 40th day of Hoseyn's martyrdom] renewed the memories of the 1978 Arba'in, which led to the downfall of the Satan and Yazid [chief opponent of Hoseyn] of the age in the minds of the public.

According to the report of our correspondents from Tehran, the celebrations on the 40th day of the martyrdom of Imam Hoseyn in Tehran started with the recitation of some verses from the Koran in Imam Hoseyn Square.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khaz'ali [not further identified] talked about the glorious epic of Karbala' and the sublime ideology of the lord of the martyrs and heroes of the world, His Holiness Hoseyn ibn 'Ali, and his devoted followers. Referring to the recent victories of the forces of Islam on the battlefields and giving some examples of the self-sacrifices of the forces of Islam on the Bostan, Gilan-e Gharb, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab fronts and other battlefronts, he praised the heroic deeds of the followers of the crimson path of the lord of the martyrs. In a part of his speech he said:

[Begin recording] The progeny of Hoseyn shouts from Jamaran saying the eight-point Fahd plan is (?a deceit and a threat) and the Muslims of the world should know that it is a vile plan by America.

Any Muslim who remains silent on this issue is a traitor. This means that wherever you see flames arising you should crush it, crush it. [sentence as heard] We are still at the beginning of the road. Everyday a new plot is being hatched by this deceitful devil. Today, the Golan Heights are used as a pretext. This is only an excuse for creating disorder in the Middle East. Oh Muslim! Where is your honor? Oh Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Kuwait! Zionism is delivering blows at you. Death with honor is preferable to life with suppression. Submission to Zionism, this colonialist branch which has stemmed from world imperialism, is death with misery and degradation. How can one live with total degradation and humiliation? Therefore, once again, this great crier has raised his call, saying the Golan Heights is an excuse. The esteemed speaker of the Majlis also announces: Not only should we liberate the Golan Heights but the most holy mosque should also be taken out of their claws. All this is being said from a position of strength by a nation which is not supported by any country or nation; but it has the support of God, for "verily, God is a sufficent reckoner."

This nation has suffered for 18 months in this imposed war 12 or 18 deaths, yet it throws 1,000 of the vile enemy upon the dust. [sentence as heard] This is a sign of the strength of this nation. They raise their call to the whole world.

Oh Syria and other countries! Wake up and don't remain asleep. (?This is a warning against) a cancer which has penetrated the Middle East and wishes to afflict all the countries in the Middle East with its cancerous cells. [It may achieve this] only if the Muslim nations are dead. However, they are alive and Iran is their base. Iran will export its revolution up to the Al-Aqsa Mosque, with the slogan "the road to Jerusalem" [shouts of "God is great"] [end recording]

FOREIGN DIPLOMATS TOUR RECAPTURED AREAS

GF180501 Tehran PARS in English 1443 GMT 17 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 17 Dec (PARS NEWS AGENCY) -- A group of foreign diplomats and military experts who have been in Iran upon the invitation of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday visited parts of the east of Karun recaptured by the Iranian combatants on October 4th. During their visit they were briefed by a former commander of the 77th Army Division on the Iranian military operations which led to the eastern parts of Karun being recaptured.

Another commander of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran described the recent operations of the Iranian soldiers which led to the recapturing of the border town of Bostan Nov 29th. He said that numerous spoils of war had been seized from the Iraqis in the battlefronts in and near the city of Bostan which included 86 tanks, 37 armoured personnel carriers, six 36-mm artillery pieces, and twelve 152-mm Italian made guns.

The group of the visiting foreign diplomats were also led along a tour of the recaptured areas as well as other parts earlier strafed by the Iraqi fighter-bombers. They also visited the town of Mared, only two or three kilometers away from the enemy positions and also As-Sulaymaniyah, Mahmudiyyah, Darkhovin, north of the city of Abadan and the Abadan-Ahvaz highway.

The Swiss charge d'affaires in Tehran, who was among the group, said to PARS in Abadan that he had found the recaptured areas to be under full control of the Iranian forces and added that he longed to go to the forefronts of the battle fields so that he could get a better knowledge of the situation in the war fronts. Also the Algerian military attache praised the efforts of the Iranian combatants in the fronts for having recaptured many areas. He condemned the Iraqi Army of aggression against the Iranian territory and said the aggressors are the forces which trespass into other lands and that Iraq is the aggressor army because its forces are in Iran.

The Indonesian press attache, another foreign official with the group, praised the efforts of the Iranian people and attributed the success of the Iranians to their Islamic ideology and the leadership of Imam Khomeyni and the patriotic Iranian combatants. He said his embassy reports whatever they get from Iran but admitted that such reports fall short of counterbalancing the massive inflow of the Western media reports to his country and suggested that more Iranian delegates visit Indonesia for informing the Indonesians of the facts about the Islamic revolution in Iran.

Saddam Husayn referred to the October 4th defeat of his army east of Karun as 'a strategic withdrawal', and later denied the town of Bostan having been recaptured by the Iranian combatants on November 29th.

Meanwhile a group of local and foreign reporters yesterday visited Iraqi captives in the city of Kermanshah, and held talks with them. The group of the Iraqi captives described the morale of the Iraqi Armed Forces as being very low and said that as a result of the recent offensive by the Iranian soldiers, the Iraqis have lost their initial capability. He said a great many Iraqi soldiers wish to flee from the battle scenes but that if they do so they will be killed by Iraqi surveillance guards behind the battle fields.

The group of reporters then visited the families of the Iranian martyrs in the city hall.

Envoys Comment on Visit

LD171154 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Dec 81

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, ambassadors, diplomatic envoys and military attaches of 24 foreign countries accredited to Iran, after inspecting the southern fronts, returned to Tehran today. During this visit, liberated sections of Abadan, north of Abadan, the Nowshahr, Ahvaz and Abadan roads and the Darkhovin and Mared sectors were inspected by the ambassador, diplomats and military attaches of the foreign countries in Iran.

According to a PARS correspondent, the Romanian ambassador, after returning from the liberated regions in the south of our country, said, regarding the liberated sectors in the north of Abadan: The Iranian forces have recaptured vast areas and have inflicted heavy casualties on the other side. During our tour we saw a lot of destroyed Iraqi military equipment. Regarding the news concerning the recent victory of the Iranian Muslim combatants, he said: All the news has been reported by the Romanian mass media.

The Romanian ambassador endorsed the fact that the only way to end the war that was started by Iraq and forced upon Iran, is for the people and the Muslim combatants of Iran to fight until all Iranian positions have been recaptured. He expressed his regret concerning the ruins in Abadan and the thousands of homeless inhabitants. He also expressed the hope that the war would end soon.

The charge d'affaires of the Belgian Embassy, after visiting the liberated sections of Abadan, told a Central News Unit correspondent: We all know that it was Iraq who committed an aggression against Iranian soil, whose army entered Iran and occupied some southern and western regions of Iran. He added: It was very interesting for me to see these regions for myself. Discussing the conditions in Abadan, he said that it is clear that it had suffered relentless and extensive battles prior to the breaking of its siege because of the great deal of wreckage in the town. The charge d'affaires of the Belgian Embassy said: I will inform the Belgian Government and public of what I have seen.

IRAQI PRISONER PRAISES TREATMENT BY IRANIANS

LD171530 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Dec 81

[Text] According to PARS, domestic and foreign journalists, who are spending their second day visiting the western fronts and Iraqi prisoners of war in that area, visited Ayatollah Taleqani Hospital and army hospitals in Kermanshah this morning and interviewed the self-sacrificing wounded of the revolution in these hospitals and also an Iraqi pilot whose plane was shot down by the forces of Islam.

According to this report, the wounded in these hospitals who have been under the full medical care of the active and committed brothers and sisters of the hospital staff and the relief workers of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, said to the reporters: Our lives are worthless in the path of Islam, and we shall sacrifice our lives for Islam and for the imam.

The pilot of an Iraqi MiG-21 which was shot down recently in a dogfight with the fast-flying heroes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran said in reply to a question on whether he had so far seen or heard of Iranian fighters bombarding residential areas and religious places in Iraq: I have not seen or heard of Iranian pilots doing such things.

He was asked: Why did you bomb Iran's residential and nonmilitary areas and kill defenseless, Muslim people? The Iraqi pilot said in reply: We have become aware that this war has no fate but defeat for us. I believe that one Muslim should never kill another, but we were ordered to attack the Iranians. The Iraqi regime has taken our wives and children as hostages, and if we had not obeyed they would have killed our families.

Regarding the treatment given to him by the Iranians after his capture, he said: So far, I have seen nothing but good and humane behavior from the Iranian brothers; one of the Guards Corps brothers even gave his blood in order to save me. He added: Since I have been hospitalized here, the Friday imam of Kermanshah and some other clergymen have visited me and have wished me good health.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 732

LD171732 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Dec 81

[Communique 732 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Dear compatriots: Some of the operations and self-sacrifices of the combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the situation on the battlefronts are hereby announced:

In the past 24 hours, fighting with artillery and heavy-weapon fire on most of the western fronts of the country was continuing sporadically between the combatants of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the forces of the aggressive Iraqi Army; it was more intense on the Gilan-e Gharb fronts.

Our victorious compatants on part of the Gilan-e Gharb front are busy consolidating their defense positions and on the other parts of these fronts they are bravely fighting the Saddamist mercenaries and enjoying combat and mental power superiority. They are continuing to fight for the destruction of the Iraqi forces.

At 0730 yesterday morning the defeated forces of Saddam, following the victory achieved by the combatants of the ground forces during which all of the Siah Kuh heights were recaptured, tried to launch a counteroffensive; but the devotees of the ground forces, enjoying the complete support of the powerful artillery and tank units, foiled the enemy's counter-offensive and pushed him back. In these operations, one enemy tank and one 75-mm gun were destroyed.

At 1200 yesterday the combatants of the gendarmerie, opening fire on the enemy positions on the Shur-e Shirin front, inflicted losses and casualties on the Iraqi forces.

On the western fronts of Dezful, Ahvaz, Bostan, Abadan and Khuninshahr, exchanges of artillery and heavy-weapon fire between the forces of Islam and the enemy were continuing sporadically.

The heroes of the navy and the brave personnel of the gendarmerie on the Khuninshahr front returned the enemy's fire and destroyed nine trenches, foxholes and observation posts, one antiaircraft gun, one truck and one assembly point of the Saddamists. There is no accurate information on the enemy's dead and wounded.

CLANDESTINE LAUDS TONKABON FOR DOUBTING KHOMEYNI

NC161454 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] Greetings to the people of Tonkabon! If what the Friday imam of Tonkabon said during Friday prayers is a reply to the conclusion drawn by the people of Tonkabon and to the resistance shown by them, then we should say greetings and bravo to the people of Tonkabon, who are more alert than the people of Tehran, Qom, Mashhad, Shiraz and Tabriz. They have started a war with Khomeyni and his ilk, have placed their finger on a problem that has no reply -- for what is given as a reply will be nothing but misleading and confusing.

The people of Tonkabon have said: If we are Muslims and Shi'ites believing in the 12 imams, then what our religion says is that an Islamic rule will be established only with the appearance of the 12th imam, may God revere and forgive him, and that before him only the dajjal [antagonist of the promised imam who is expected to appear before the end of the world] will fool the people and propagate a regime in the name of the Islamic regime in order to disgrace and defame Islam and to mislead the people. Since Khomeyni is not the lord of the era, then his Islamic Republic is the regime of the dajjal. It has an Islamic name but lacks the divine Islamic customs and it is the patron of atheism and nonbelievers, the emergence of which has been mentioned in religious narratives. It is said that because of the behavior of this dajjal, God will not consider the long absence of the lord of the ages advisable and will count on his emergence for the salvation of his creatures.

In reply to the Tonkaboni people, the Khomeyni-appointed Friday Imam Rahmat says: This rumor that by virtue of the narratives we cannot have an Islamic rule until the appearance of the lord of the ages has been a misleading factor for the people and they are asking questions and making remarks. But what I can say to this is that these narratives should be analyzed by an eminent doctor of theological law because we cannot directly understand them.

Naturally, this is not a reply to the people's question because what the people are saying is something that has been repeated for centuries by renowned doctors of theological law. It is something these scholars have written about in their epistles and taught in schools. These writings state that the lord of the ages will appear at a time when the world will be in a complete state of violence, oppression, injustice and aggression. They have said that one of the signs of this appearance will be that prior to it, Islam will become a toy in the hands of an impostor whose intention will be to mislead the people in the name of Islam. In order to prevent naive people from being misled, these doctors of theology have recalled that the rule of Islamic justice can only be established by the lord of the ages and that if someone claims to have done so before the lord of the ages, he will be the dajjal who fools many people, misleads many people and forces many people to commit mischief, but who is finally disgraced by each and every one. These remarks have been uttered so frankly that there is no need for comments and even if there is a need to comment on them then the dajjal himself is the last person to do so especially at a time when simultaneous with these murmurs among the people, Khomeyni has displayed an audacity that cannot be dismissed perfunctorily.

What Khomeyni has said is that the preservation of the Islamic Republic is more important than the preservation of a person even if that person is the lord of the ages. Such a remark cannot be heard from anyone but the dajjal. It is the dajjal only who has started filling the heads saying that if the lord of the ages appears and says "Oh people, Khomeyni's Islamic Republic is not an Islamic republic," then this republic is not Islamic. It is anti-Islamic and heathen and the machinery of oppressions, injustice and aggressions.

Rise to struggle against him and his creed for the people not to hear their true imam's voice and to strive toward the preservation of the republic and to support a regime that is killing its youths in groups and has filled its prisons with innocent people and has deprived the people of calm and their daily bread and has made of a country that could have been a paradise on earth an inferno in which everyone is burning (?with no way to escape).

(?The mullah of Tonkabon) [words indistinct], because (?that which our sinless imams) have said and the doctors of theological law (?who have made these comments) [words indistinct] for the people not to have an excuse and say that "we didn't know how to recognize the dajjal. We didn't know how (?to tell right from wrong). We didn't know who was sincere and who intends to fool and mislead the people." Because if this happens, then all the doctors of theology will raise their voice and say "did we not tell you what was advisable for you? Didn't we say that the Islamic Republic will be established only by the lord of the ages? Didn't we say that anyone but the lord of the ages claiming this will be the dajjal and he should not be followed and listened to? [Words indistinct] were you deaf and didn't hear and blind and didn't see that (?on the day when this dajjal had gathered members of his regime in Jamaran) [words indistinct] very impudently said that "the preservation of the Islamic Republic, which I founded, is more important than the preservation of a person even if that person is the lord of the ages." How did you allow yourself to (?sacrifice your lord of ages for Khomeyni's Islamic Republic and listen to such a thing uttered by the dajjal and not be able to tell that he was the dajjal? How were you not able to see that he is the one, the same person who is to come before the appearance of the imam to fool and mislead the people and whose (?duty) it is to disgrace Islam? How could you not see that his duty was to disgrace [words indistinct] (?the divine religion) and you were prepared to throw yourselves into the (?devils trap and separate yourselves from the compassionate God) [words indistinct].

Yes, to the people of Tonkabon should be said "greetings and bravo to you respectable people who bravely raised your head and were not prepared to sell your [words indistinct] and said things that will, sooner or later, (?open the eyes and ears of all compatriots) [words indistinct], as an eternal curse will be on those who are still (?fast asleep and have linked their fates with the fate of the dajjal).

RADIO IRAN CITES 'MONARCHISTS' RADIO' ON ARRESTS

NC171028 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 16 Dec 81

[Text] The Public Relations Office of the Revolution Guards Corps has reported that during the past month 236 Mojahedin-e Khalq and monarchists have been arrested and imprisoned. The radio of the monarchists that broadcasts its programs under the name of the Voice of Iran announced that during the past month 12 monarchists were trapped by the regime. According to that radio, these people were two officers of the armed forces, (?six) NCO's, three privates and a professor of Mashhad University. The arrested armed forces personnel have been handed over to Sheykh Reyshahri, the executioner of the Islamic revolution's military courts of injustice.

The Public Relations Office of the Revolution Guards Corps also announced that 47 other opponents of the regime have been arrested in Esfahan and that a group of Iranians who intended to flee Iran secretly to escape the mullahs' oppression were arrested on the borders. Several women and children are among the people arrested.

CLANDESTINE CLAIMS URANIUM SENT TO USSR

NC171005 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 16 Dec 81

[Text] (?Two consignments of uranium were delivered by agents of the traitorous Tudeh Party and elements of the clerical regime to the Soviet Government on the Turkmen border. According to a Free Voice of Iran correspondent, after receiving documents on the confidential delivery of Iranian uranium to the Soviet Union, the atomic energy organization of the Islamic Republic, which had been informed by its agents in Mashhad on this matter, revealed some of its activities today but without mentioning any reports on the delivery of two consignments of uranium to the Soviet Union.

Reports received from reliable sources by the clandestine Free Voice of Iran indicate that a secret war was in progress in the past between the East and West over Iranian uranium. And now Moscow's agents, who are acting in Iran under the name of the Tudeh Party, have been able to acquire Iran's rich uranium resources. According to our correspondent, the occupied Tehran radio today claimed that experts of the atomic energy organization have discovered a rich deposit (?of good quality) uranium in Iran. The Islamic Republic's atomic energy organization [words indistinct] (?Russian and East German experts) [words indistinct].

The Free Voice of Iran announces that the delivery of Iranian uranium to the Eastern and Western superpowers should be condemned. (?Patriotic supporters of Iran's freedom) should not allow the traitorous mullahs and the (?sworn traitors) and Moscow-worshipping members of the Tudeh Party to deliver this God-given national resource to the Soviet Government in the name of Islam and the Islamic Republic. The Islamic Republic's atomic energy organization, which has replaced the Iranian atomic energy organization, is an antinational organization serving Moscow. The organization is operated by the leadership cadre of the Tudeh Party and Russian experts.

REPORTS CITED ON ATTACKS AGAINST AFGHAN LEADER

LD170024 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 16 Dec 81

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the expansion of the Muslim struggle has gravely shaken the position of the Karmal government in Kabul.

According to diplomatic sources in Islamabad, the government control over the capital has been gravely shaken, and on 7 December an armed group shot to death three members of the ruling party and exploded a bomb in Babrak Karmal's office.

According to these sources, the city of Shekar Darrah, in northern Afghanistan, has been captured by the militant forces.

AFGHAN TROOPS, MUJAHIDIN KILLED IN CLASHES

LD140740 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] According to an Afghan Muslim mujahidin spokesman, during the past month about 87 Afghan civilians have been killed in retaliatory air attacks by invading USSR troops in a town in southeast Afghanistan. About 2,500 others have been arrested. According to this report, air raids by government planes and helicopters were carried out in response to an attack by Muslim mujahidin on a prison. Meanwhile, 37 soldiers were killed and a number were injured in attacks by mujahidin on government forces.